

MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF CHAIRPERSONS
JULY 21, 2014 – 6:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX – COMMUNITY ROOM 2

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Stebbins, Rafferty, Sutherland, Pritchard, Sherrard

Staff: Jones, Norris, Schneider, Gilot

Others Present: Ray Munn

Acting Chairperson Sherrard called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS - None

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF January 27, 2014

MOTION: To approve the minutes of January 27, 2014

Motion made by Stebbins, seconded by Rafferty. Motion passed 4-0-1, 1 abstention (Sherrard).

IV. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Crystal Lake Road Reconstruction

Gary Schneider, Director of Public Works, presented a project summary for Crystal Lake Road which was prepared by the State in April, 2012. The standards and schedule were provided in the summary. Schneider reviewed the preliminary design for the project; the engineers are working on the final design. The Town is working with the owner of the Woody's site to clean the site to improve the traffic flow on Crystal Lake Road and Route 12. A bus stop, sidewalk, and parking lot improvements for apartments on Crystal Lake Road were explained. The Department of Public Works is working with CONNDOT to remove one of the apartment buildings on Crystal Lake Road. The main entry to and exit from the SUBASE were reviewed. Military Highway will be reconfigured to align with the entry to the base rather than the exit lane. The reconfiguration is also intended to limit the speed of vehicles as they approach the base. There will be two lanes in and two lanes out of SUBASE. Some utility relocation and drainage work will be done as part of the project. The pump station site on Military Highway will also be improved. Environmental cleanup is being done on the former Fusconi property to allow for the new alignment of Military Highway. A 10' wide multi-use trail along Crystal Lake Road, to Route 12 will connect to Pleasant Valley Road South. The cost of the project is approximately 5.5 million, with 80% of the funding provided by federal money, 10% by state funds, and 10% local funds. The Town needs to process easements and anticipate advertising in Winter, 2015, with construction beginning Spring 2016, completed in 2017.

2. Ethics Ordinance – Update

Staff discussed the history and some of the items in the proposed ordinance. Copies of the Council's working draft were distributed. She explained that the ordinance does not apply to any political subdivisions, but affects all Town employees and officials, and the Board of Education.

Sherrard said all Boards and Commission were supposed to provide comments to the Town Manager by June 30th. Since they were tasked with providing input, they should all see the draft and how it impacts them.

3. Mystic Streetscape Phase II

Rick Norris, Project Manager, provided an update on the streetscape project. The project is virtually complete except for striping and minor punchlist items. Norris explained the details of the Randall's Wharf driveways, the increased parking spaces on the street, plantings, and the center island. The project should be completed in the next week or so. Sidewalk, caulking, benches and bike racks need to be finished. They are three weeks behind the original schedule. Crosswalks in the area and potential items for Phase III (if funding is available) were discussed. He noted that the Kelley statue will be dedicated on September 21st. It will be located in the parklet at the corner of Route 1 and Bank Street.

4. POCD - Update

Staff updated the Committee on the progress of the POCD. The Steering Committee completed their work and turned over the draft document to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission has scheduled several workshops to review and finalize the draft document. The Commission will take written comments, but no public comments during the workshops. A January public hearing is anticipated.

5. Identification of Topics for Discussion – Requested by Acting Chair

V. OLD BUSINESS – None

VI. REPORT OF CHAIRPERSONS - None

VII. REPORT OF STAFF – None

Staff said the Zoning Commission recently approved a regulation amendment allowing the keeping of hens, effective August 1st.

Staff said the Thomas Road project is moving slower than anticipated. Funds need to be released to complete the drawings. Additional permitting is also required. Construction is anticipated to begin either spring or fall of next year.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn at 6:37 was made by Sutherland, seconded by Rafferty, so voted unanimously.

Prepared by: Debra L. Gilot
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OPDS